

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 MC-02 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 L-03 H-01 IGA-02 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /073 W

-----128710 201856Z /53-L

R 201230Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8562

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

S E C R E T KUWAIT 4020

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MASS, KU, IR, UK

SUBJECT: REPORTED "DIVERSION" TO KUWAIT OF BRITISH TANKS

DESTINED TO IRAN

REF: (A) USCINCEUR 141600Z JUL 77 (EUCOM INTSUM CABLE

(EISC) 133-77 OF JULY 14) (NOTAL), (B) TEHRAN 6369

(NOTAL).

REF A REPORTED THAT THE SHAH OF IRAN TOLD
OUR AMBASSADOR IN TEHRAN THAT IRAN "INTENDS TO DIVERT TO
KUWAIT SOME OF THE CHIEFTAIN TANKS SCHEDULED FOR
DELIVERY TO IRAN FROM THE UK," AND IT NOTED THAT THE DATT
IN TEHRAN "BELIEVES...THAT THE PRIMARY REASON FOR
THE SHAH'S ACTION IS TO UNDERMINE ANY SOVIET
MILITARY EQUIPMENT CURRENTLY BEING PURCHASED BY KUWAIT."
DELIVERY OF THE 165 CHIEFTAINS PURCHASED BY KUWAIT IN
1976 BEGAN IN SEPTEMBER OF THAT YEAR AND TO DATE SOME
25 TANKS ARE HER. THESE ARE AS MANY AS THE KUWAITI ARMY
CAN INITIALLY ABOSRB AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT,
FOR A TIME AT LEAST, THERE WERE INSUFFICIENT TRAINED

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DRIVERS FOR THEM. WE DOUBT THAT THE GOK HAS BOUGHT
OR AGREED TO ANY ADDITIONAL CHIEFTAINS, BUT WE WILL BE
CHECKING INTO THIS. ALSO, WE ARE AWARE OF NO EVIDENCE
THAT THE SOVIETS AND THE KUWAITIS HAVE DISCUSSED A TANK
DEAL. IN VIEW OF THE LOGISTICAL NIGHTMARE WHICH THE
ACQUISITION OF A SECOND TANK WEAPONS SYSTEM WOULD BE TO
THE EIGHT-THOUSAND-MAN KUWAITI ARMY, AND THE CURRENT

KUWAITI RELUCTANCE TO ACCEPT SOVIET ADVISORS, WE DO
NOT BELIEVE THAT THE KUWAITIS WOULD BUY SOVIET TANKS.
IT MAY WELL BE, HOWEVER, THAT KUWAIT IS CURRENTLY
TAKING DELIVERY OF SOME CHIEFTAINS ORIGINALLY INTENDED
FOR IRAN.
MAESTRONE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PROCUREMENT, TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUWAIT04020
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770258-0241
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770739/aaaabhhq.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2c250467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1806104
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED "DIVERSION" TO KUWAIT OF BRITISH TANKS DESTINED TO IRAN
TAGS: MASS, KU, IR, UK
To: CINCEUR
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2c250467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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